

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09450 100632Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 /056 W

-----064326 100639Z /10

R 100543Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6152

INFO CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PROP, CH, TW, US

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRO-PRC PRESS REACTION TO WOLFF PLEBISCITE
PROPOSAL

1. AS EXPECTED, THE LOCAL PRO-PRC "NEW EVENING POST"
HAS RESPONDED TO REPRESENTATIVE LESTER WOLFF'S SUGGESTION
THAT A PLEBISCITE BE HELD TO ASCERTAIN THE PREFERENCE OF
THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON NORMALIZATION. THE PAPER SAID THIS
IS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW "A FEW FOREIGNERS" ARE
TRYING TO "SPLIT CHINA" AND ASKED WHAT THE REACTION WOULD
BE IF CHINA PROPOSED A VOTE IN HAWAII OR ALASKA, SUPERVISED
BY THE SOVIETS, ON WHETHER THESE STATES WISHED TO REMAIN
IN THE UNION OR BECOME INDEPENDENT. THE COMMENTARY GOES
ON TO SAY WOLFF'S SUGGESTION IS HALF A CENTURY TOO LATE -
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE BEFORE THE 1940'S WHEN TAIWAN WAS
A JAPANESE COLONY. NOW, AFTER THE ISLAND HAS BEEN
"RETURNED" TO CHINA BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, IT IS

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A MATTER FOR THE 8-900 MILLION PEOPLE OF CHINA TO
DECIDE, NOT JUST TAIWAN'S 16 MILLION. WOLFF'S
PROPOSAL IS SEEN AS EVIDENCE THAT PEKING NEEDS TO
CONTINUE TO HAMMER AWAY AT ITS OFTEN REPEATED
OPPOSITION TO VARIOUS "TWO CHINAS, ONE CHINA ONE
TAIWAN, ONE CHINA TWO GOVERNMENTS" PLOTS.

2. COMMENT: WHILE WOLFF'S SUGGESTION OF A PLEBISCITE MAY STRIKE RESPONSIVE CHORDS IN THE U.S. OR PERHAPS AMONG SOME TAIWANESE, IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY ANETHEMA TO CHINESE LEADERS IN BOTH PEKING AND TAIPEI. (FAIRBANK MAKES A SIMILAR POINT IN HIS JULY 27 "NEW YORK TIMES" ARTICLE.) THE "NEW EVENING POST'S" DELAYED RESPONSE - TWO DAYS AFTER THE NEWS WAS CARRIED IN THE LOCAL ENGLISH PRESS - MAY INDICATE UNCERTAINTY ON HOW TO REACT UNTIL GUIDANCE WAS PROVIDED BY PEKING. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE FOCUS WAS SHIFTED AWAY FROM THE SELF-DETERMINATION ISSUE INTO STANDARD PRC DEMANDS FOR NON-INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE EXPECT THE ISSUE WILL BE DROPPED UNLESS IT IS RAISED BY OTHER U.S. LEADERS. ONE LOCAL PRO-KMT PAPER CARRIED THE STORY AS A NEWS FEATURE WITHOUT COMMENT.

CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977HONGK09450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770287-0543
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770878/aaaacnto.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d7ce305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: LOCAL PRO-PRC PRESS REACTION TO WOLFF PLEBISCITE PROPOSAL
TAGS: PGOV, PROP, PDEV, CH, TW, US, (WOLFF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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